

# **THE JACOBS REPORT**

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## **JACOBS MOVES BILL TO STEM COMMUNITY BLIGHT**

### **Citizen boards to fund public improvements**

Legislation that will allow cities to create citizen boards authorized to adopt tax increment financing plans to fund public improvements has passed the Senate. The legislation was introduced by Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). The Corridor Improvement Authorities (CIAs) would benefit aging communities that do not have the economic tools necessary for business area improvements. The legislation now goes to the House for a committee hearing.

“I’m thrilled that we’re able to provide a bipartisan solution to some of the problems of aging communities,” Jacobs said. “By establishing an official body that has implementation powers, we’re demonstrating collective problem-solving.”

The CIA would be created by the governing body and operate similar to a Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The majority of the board would be comprised of business or property owners. Redevelopment efforts could include street renovation, street lighting, parking lots and sidewalk improvements at no cost to taxpayers. The legislation has received the support of the Michigan Municipal League.

The CIA concept was an outgrowth of conversations Jacobs held with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Woodward Corridor business owners when she served in the House of Representatives.

“Commercial areas are often gateways to the neighborhoods,” Jacobs said. “This legislation provides a tool for cities that might not otherwise have the means to redevelop entire geographic areas.”

## **HOUSE BILL: NO SCHOOL BEFORE LABOR DAY**

Under legislation passed by the House, school districts could not begin their academic year until after Labor Day.

This is not a new issue: all-out battles over pre-Labor Day starts peppered the 1990s, resulting in a compromise four-day holiday weekend. Most casual observers probably felt that the controversial issue was dead.

HB 4803 passed on an easy 69-40 vote, illustrating how quickly sentiment can change in the House during the era of term limits.

Twenty Democrats joined 49 Republicans in support of the bill. Nine Republicans and 31 Democrats opposed it.

Supporters of the bill said it would boost Michigan tourism. Opponents feel that it is an erosion of local control.

Liz Boyd, spokesperson for Governor Jennifer Granholm, said the governor has not taken a position on the bill.

## **MICHIGAN LAUNCHES CHILD PROTECTION E-MAIL REGISTRY**

### **First state in nation to guard kids from nasty messages**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and Chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) J. Peter Lark announced that on July 1, Michigan will become the first state in the nation to launch a child protection registry that will enable parents to guard children from unwanted electronic messages.

“Michigan’s child protection registry is a great way parents can shield their children from inappropriate email,” said Granholm. “I’m proud that Michigan is the first state in the nation to develop this registry and provide a way for parents and teachers to protect our children from unsuitable emails.”

Michigan’s child protection registry, called the Protect MI Child Registry, will allow individuals and schools to register email addresses to which minors have access. In the near future, instant message IDs, mobile phone numbers, fax numbers, pager numbers, and other contact points can also be registered. There is no cost to register.

On July 21, 2004, the Governor signed SB 1025, creating the Michigan Children’s Protection Registry Act (Public Act 241).

Public Act 241 prohibits persons from sending to registered addresses messages about products or services that are legally prohibited for children. Examples include pornography, tobacco, gambling, alcohol, illegal or prescription drugs, firearms, and fireworks. Senders of material are required to remove registered email addresses from their mailing lists within 30 days.

If a registered contact receives a prohibited message, a complaint may be filed with the Michigan Attorney General’s office. A first violation is a misdemeanor; subsequent violations are felonies. Civil penalties may also be sought.

“The Protect MI Child Registry has been designed to be very user-friendly,” said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. “Parents and others who have expressed outrage and frustration at the endless stream of unwanted messages to which their children have access now have a way to reduce those messages.”

The registry was created and will be operated by Unspam Registry Services. For more details on the registry, visit [www.michigan.gov/protectmichild](http://www.michigan.gov/protectmichild). The site will go live for registrations at 7 a.m. (EST) on July 1.

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

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